PATENT 450100-02236

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Kiyotaka NAKABAYASHI et al.

Serial No.

09/455,576

Filed

December 6, 1999

For

IMAGE-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE-PROCESSING

METHOD

Art Unit

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 15, 2000

William S. Frommer, Reg. No. 25,506

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

> May 15, 2000 Date of Signature

> > PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows: